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SHOGUN WARRIORS™
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WAR BENEATH THE WAVES!

Stan Lee Presents: SHOGUN WARRIORS.

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Starchild
OCEANOGRAPHERS ILONGO SAVAGE AND JUDITH JOHNS HAVE ENTERED AN UNDERWATER GROTTO TO INVESTIGATE THE PREVIOUS NIGHT'S PHENOMENON--A METEOR WHICH SPLASHED DOWN OFF THE COAST OF MADAGASCAR.
THE 'METEOR,' HOWEVER, HAS JUST HATCHED.
AN EGG--IT WAS AN EGG!
AND IN HATCHING, HAS UNLEASHED A TERRIBLE...STARCHILD!

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MUST USE MY PENDANT TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE FOLLOWERS OF THE LIGHT AT SHOGUN SANCTUARY--CONCENTRATE MY WILLPOWER, MY THOUGHTS, THROUGH THE PENDANT...
AND...
TROUBLE, ILONGO SAVAGE?
DR. TAMBURA! I NEED YOUR HELP--IMMEDIATELY!
WH-WHO IS... THAT?
WE ARE ALREADY PREPARING DANGARD ACE FOR IMMEDIATE TRANSPORT, ILONGO--FEEDING THE COMPUTER COORDINATES MATCHING YOUR SUB-SEA LOCATION. BUT WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?
THIS CREATURE, DR. TAMBURA--IT CAME FROM INSIDE A METEOR THAT LANDED HERE--AND IT HAS US TRAPPED IN THIS CAVE!
BUT... BUT WHAT MANNER OF STAR-SPAWNED CREATURE COULD IT BE--?
SUB SEA STA. 381
HOLD ON ILONGO...
...THE SHOGUN WARRIOR, DANGARD ACE, WILL BE READY FOR TRANSPORT WITHIN MOMENTS!

DANGARD IS READY NOW, DR. TAMBURA.
THEN LOCK PHASERS AND ACTIVATE ALL SYSTEMS FOR...
..TRANSPORT!
THERE'S DANGARD--BUT HE WAS TOO LARGE TO MATERIALIZE INSIDE THE CAVERN HERE, AND THE MONSTER'S STILL BLOCKING THE WAY OUT! IF ONLY THERE WERE SOME WAY TO ATTRACT ITS ATTENTION OUT THERE--
--GET IT TO LEAVE THE GROTTO SO WE COULD REACH DANGARD...
ILONGO, I DON'T UNDERSTAND ANY OF THIS, BUT YOU SAID THAT SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY HAD HAPPENED TO YOU...
...AND IT MUST CONCERN THAT GIANT ROBOT OUT THERE...
SO I WILL GIVE YOU YOUR NEEDED DISTRACTION--AND IF I FAIL, KNOW THAT MY LAST THOUGHTS WERE OF YOU AND YOUR SAFETY.
JUDITH, NO! COME BACK!!

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BUT IT IS ALREADY TOO LATE. EVADING THE WHIP OF A MASSIVE TENTICLE, JUDITH FLASHES OUT OF THE GROTTO ENTRANCE...
...AND THE STAR-CHILD MONSTER PURSUES.
SHE CAN'T HOPE TO OUTDISTANCE THAT THING!
I'VE GOT TO REACH DANGARD ACE BEFORE THE MONSTER REACHES JUDITH--
--AND HOPE THAT THE SHOGUN WARRIOR CAN WIN THE RACE AGAINST TIME!

GETTING TIRED-- CAN'T SWIM THIS FAST MUCH LONGER...!
INSIDE THE MAMMOTH SHOGUN WARRIOR, SAVAGE FRANTICALLY DISCARDS HIS SCUBA GEAR...
TIME'S RUNNING OUT-- GOT TO REACH THE CONTROLS!
FIRE BATTERY 2
PLEASE, DANGARD...
TEK
VOOSH
VOOSH
"...DON'T FAIL ME NOW!"
FROOM
IT WORKED! I GOT IT TO TURN AWAY FROM JUDITH--!
BUT MY MISSILES DIDN'T EVEN PIERCE ITS HIDE--AND HERE IT COMES!
CAN'T RISK GRAPPLING WITH THE THING BEFORE I KNOW ITS STRENGTHS AND ABILITIES, SO...

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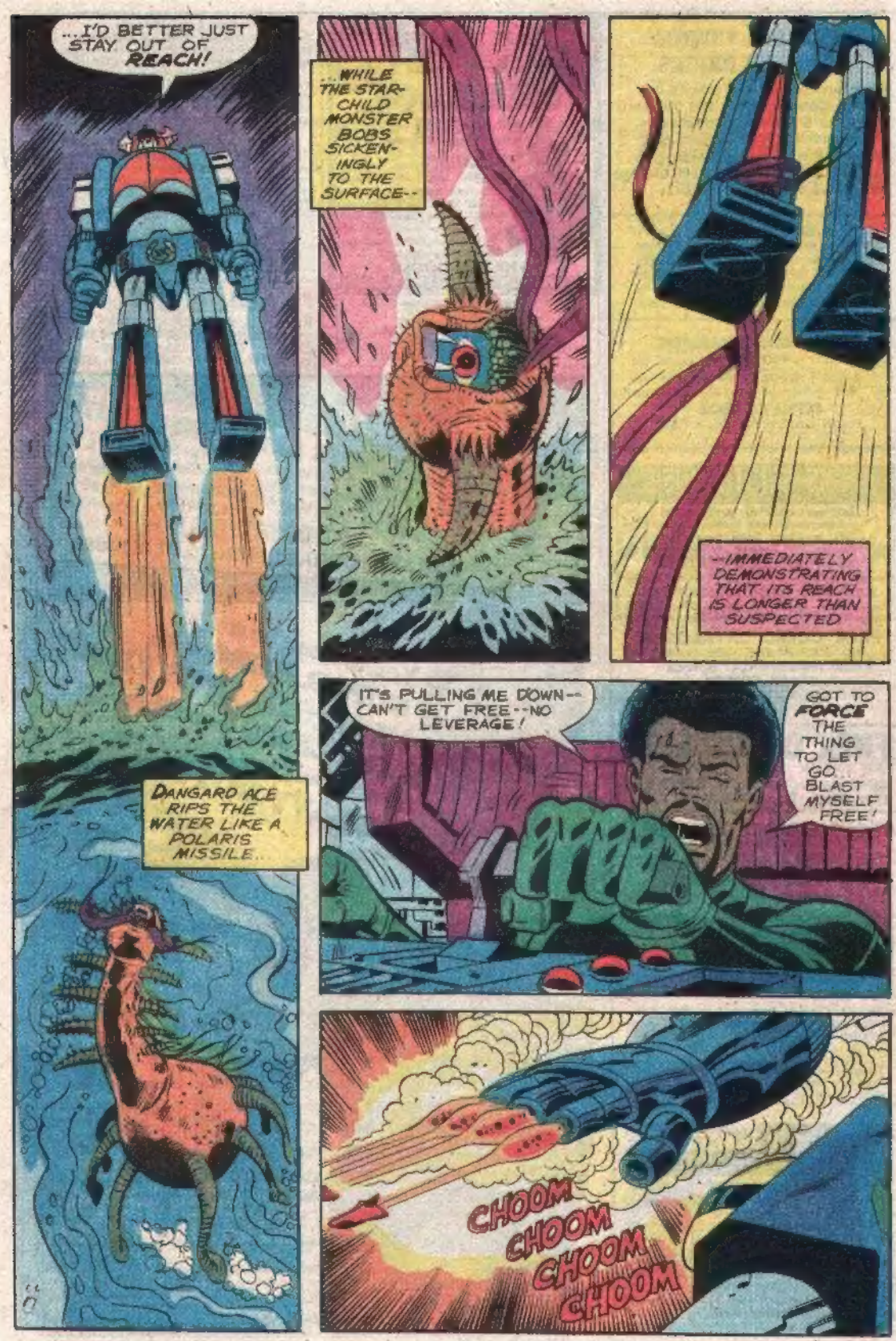
...I'D BETTER JUST STAY OUT OF REACH!
...WHILE THE STAR-CHILD MONSTER BOBS SICKENINGLY TO THE SURFACE--
--IMMEDIATELY DEMONSTRATING THAT ITS REACH IS LONGER THAN SUSPECTED
DANGARD ACE RIPS THE WATER LIKE A POLARIS MISSILE.
IT'S PULLING ME DOWN--CAN'T GET FREE--NO LEVERAGE!
GOT TO FORCE THE THING TO LET GO... BLAST MYSELF FREE!
CHOOM CHOOM CHOOM CHOOM

NO GOOD! THE MISSILES HAD NO EFFECT!
"...AND DRIVE IT BACK UNDER THE SURFACE!"
ONE LAST CHANCE BEFORE IT DE-VOURS ME
ILONGO...!
IT'S STILL PULLING ME DOWN!
FOOOSH
TRY TO USE DAN-GARD'S FOOT-JETS TO BLIND IT...
BUT DANGARD'S 'SUCCESS' IS SHORT-LIVED, AS...
ILONGO! IT'S HEADING FOR SHORE NOW!!

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YES--AND STRAIGHT TOWARD THE OCEANOGRAPHY CENTER! ALL OUR WORK THERE--THE SPECIMENS IN THE TANKS...!
IT COULD DESTROY EVERYTHING--IF I DON'T STOP IT!
IT'S NO GOOD--NOTHING SEEMS TO AFFECT IT! I'M BEGINNING TO WONDER IF THE THING IS ACTUALLY ORGANIC--
"--AND IF ANYTHING CAN STOP IT!"
YAHHH
BUT I'VE GOT TO TRY!
DON'T WANT TO GET CLOSE TO IT AGAIN--I SHOULDN'T RISK ANOTHER DIRECT CONTACT...
BUT MY WANTS AND THE CENTER'S NEEDS ARE ABOUT TO CLASH.

RUN!! THAT MONSTER IS GOING TO CRUSH THE CENTER!!
WHAMM
NOT IF DANGARD ACE CAN PREVENT IT...
AND PREVENT IT HE CAN!
WHUMP
NOW TO GET JUDITH...
JUDITH--LISTEN TO ME! CALL THE AUTHORITIES--TELL THEM WHAT'S HAPPENED, BUT TELL THEM TO STAY AWAY FROM FROM THE CREATURE. DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
YES, BUT--!
TELL THEM THAT THEY SHOULD CLEAR THE PEOPLE OUT OF THE AREA QUICKLY--AND THAT I WILL TAKE CARE OF THE MONSTER.
GO ON--USE A PHONE IN THE CENTER.
BUT ILONGO--WHAT IF THEY WON'T BELIEVE ME?
THEY WILL, JUDITH.

IT'S HEADING FURTHER INLAND--VERY SHORTLY, THEY'LL HAVE TO BELIEVE
MEANWHILE, HALF A WORLD AWAY, AT A COURTHOUSE IN TOKYO
...SUSPECTED OF DEFECTION TO A FOREIGN POWER, AS WELL AS THE THEFT OF A TOP-SECRET JET PROTOTYPE
HOW DO YOU RESPOND TO THESE INFORMAL CHARGES, GENJI ODASHU?
I'M SORRY, BUT I CAN'T RESPOND
I CAN ONLY ASSURE YOU THAT THE PLANE PROTOTYPE IS STILL A SECRET, AND THAT I'VE DONE NOTHING WRONG
GENJI'S FRIEND AND FELLOW WORKER, KOSEI ONO WINCES IN FRUSTRATION
PLEASE, GENJI, JUST TELL THEM THE TRUTH I KNOW YOU COULDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG, SO JUST TELL THEM WHATEVER IT IS YOU'VE DONE!
THAT IS NOT GOOD ENOUGH. WITHOUT DETAILS EXPLAINING YOUR PROLONGED ABSENCE--
--WE CAN NEITHER ACCEPT YOUR STATEMENT, NOR RELEASE YOU.
THEN, GENTLEMEN OF THE COURT, IT APPEARS WE HAVE REACHED AN IMPASSE. MY STATEMENT IS FIRM AND FINAL

THE TOWN OF MANA-KARA IN MADAGASCAR..
THERE ARE STILL HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE IN THE STREETS.
GOT TO HOLD THE THING OUTSIDE THE CITY--
--UNTIL THE EVACUATION IS COMPLETE!
SWUDD
THE KICK IS SWIFT AND SUDDEN.
THE RE-SPONSE, EVEN MORE SO.
FIRE--?! HE'S BREATHING FIRE-- LIKE A MYTH.CAL DRAGON!
INDEED
AND NOW, AS IF DISCOVERING THIS NEW POWER FOR THE FIRST TIME ITSELF, THE STARCHILD MONSTER GOES FULLY BERSERK--
KROOM
--DEFYING DANGARD ACE OR ANYTHING ELSE -- TO PUT A HALT TO THE CHAOS
FLARAMM

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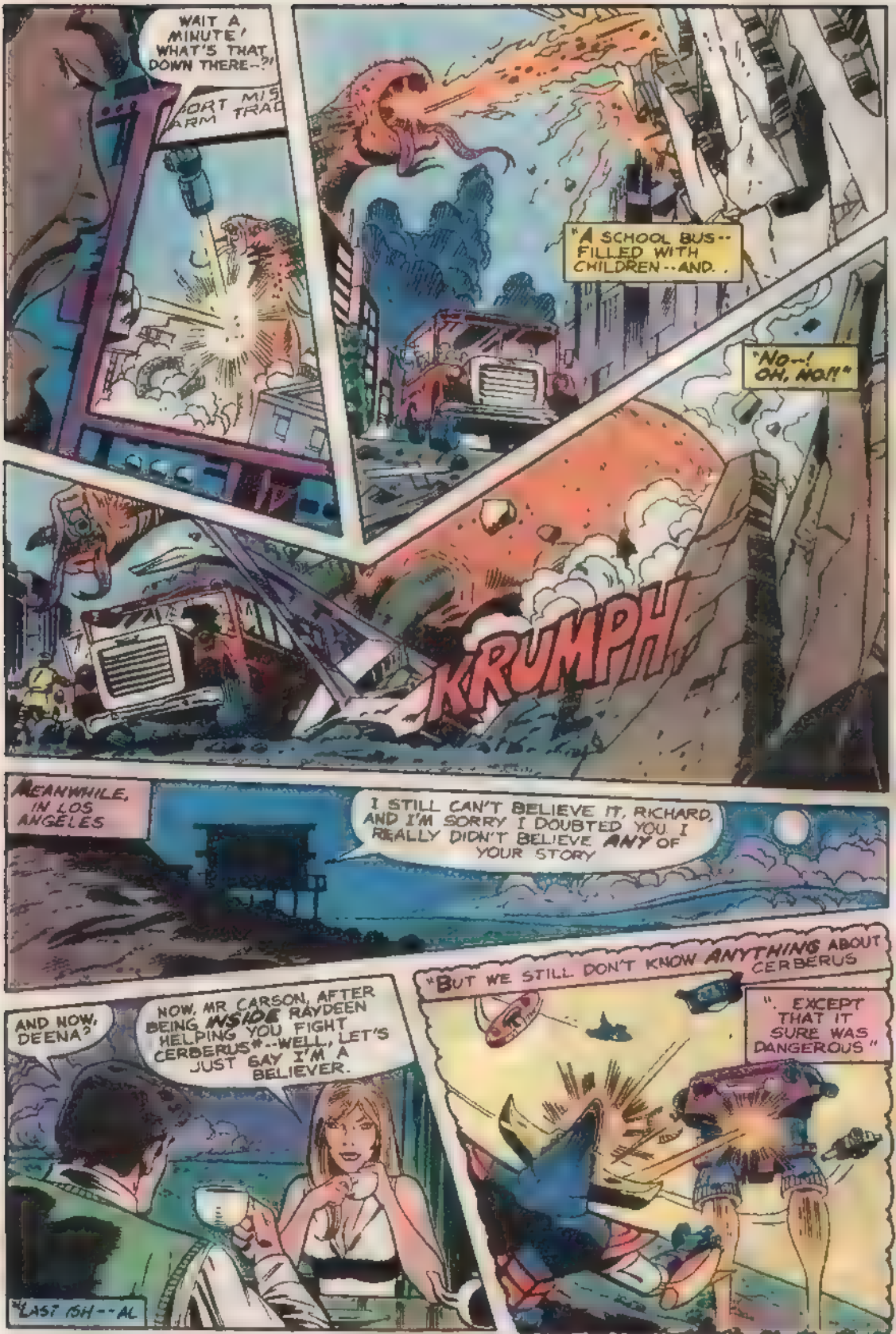
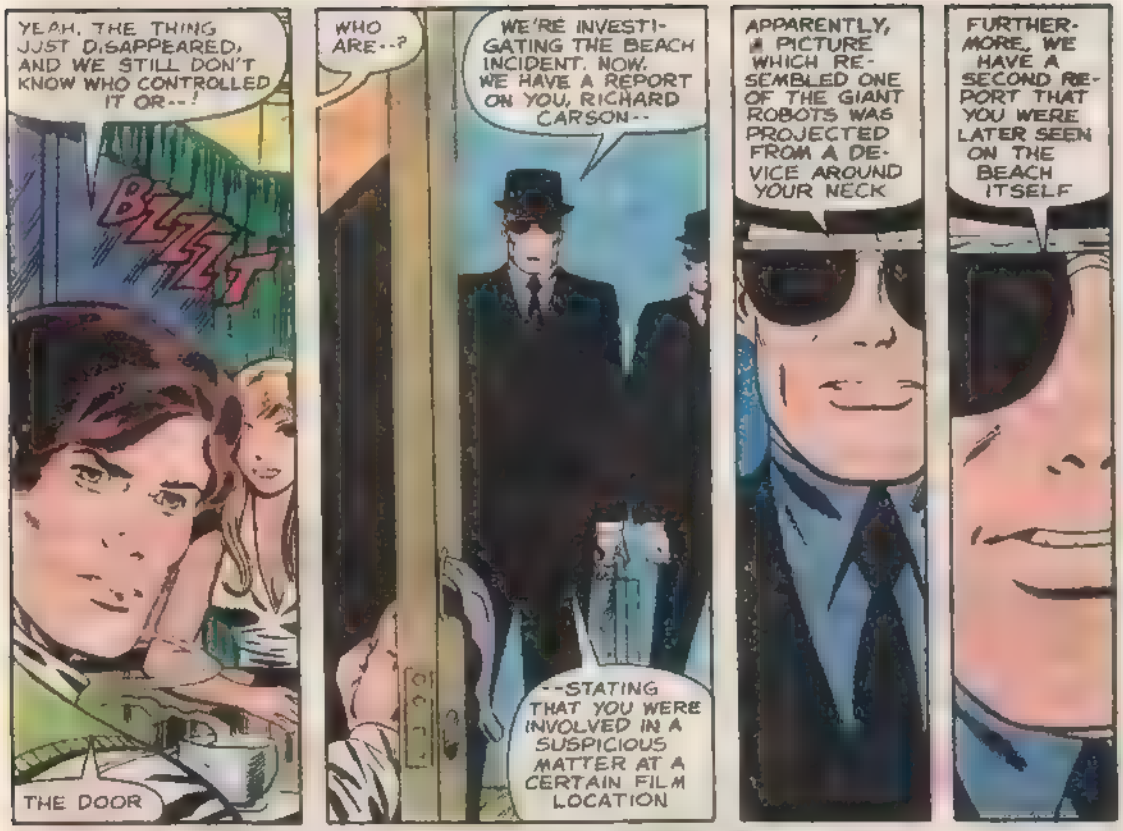
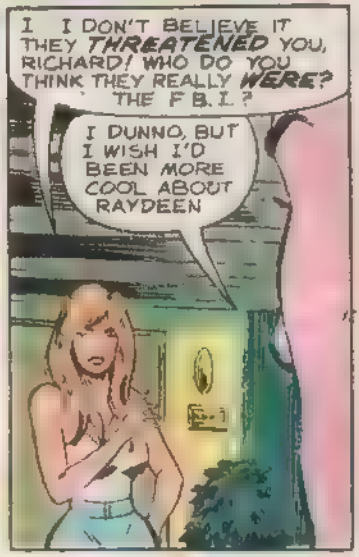
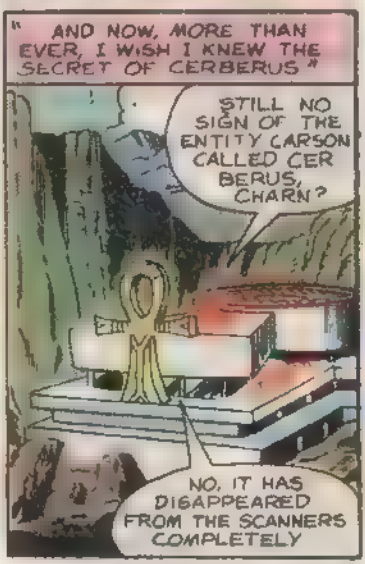

WAIT A MINUTE! WHAT'S THAT DOWN THERE--?!
"A SCHOOL BUS-- FILLED WITH CHILDREN--AND..
"NO--! OH, NO!!"
KRUMPH
MEANWHILE, IN LOS ANGELES
I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT, RICHARD, AND I'M SORRY I DOUBTED YOU. I REALLY DIDN'T BELIEVE ANY OF YOUR STORY
"BUT WE STILL DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT CERBERUS
"...EXCEPT THAT IT SURE WAS DANGEROUS"
AND NOW, DEENA?
NOW, MR CARSON, AFTER BEING INSIDE RAYDEEN HELPING YOU FIGHT CERBERUS*--WELL, LET'S JUST SAY I'M A BELIEVER.
*LAST ISH--AL


YEAH. THE THING JUST DISAPPEARED, AND WE STILL DON'T KNOW WHO CONTROLLED IT OR--!
BLLLT
THE DOOR
WHO ARE--?
WE'RE INVESTIGATING THE BEACH INCIDENT. NOW. WE HAVE A REPORT ON YOU, RICHARD CARSON--
--STATING THAT YOU WERE INVOLVED IN A SUSPICIOUS MATTER AT A CERTAIN FILM LOCATION
APPARENTLY, A PICTURE WHICH RESEMBLED ONE OF THE GIANT ROBOTS WAS PROJECTED FROM A DEVICE AROUND YOUR NECK
FURTHERMORE, WE HAVE A SECOND REPORT THAT YOU WERE LATER SEEN ON THE BEACH ITSELF

WHO, ME--? YOUR REPORTS MUST BE MISTAKEN--I LOOK LIKE A LOT OF GUYS AND I WOULDN'T GET INVOLVED IN STUFF LIKE THAT.
I'M JUST A CONFIRMED COWARD WHO WEARS AN ORDINARY PENDANT

A STUNTMAN WHO'S A COWARD, EH?
WE HAVE WAYS OF CHECKING THESE THINGS OUT, YOU KNOW AND JUST REMEMBER THIS--WE HAVE YOU IN OUR FILES NOW
YES, AND WE MAY BE BACK


I I DON'T BELIEVE IT THEY THREATENED YOU, RICHARD! WHO DO YOU THINK THEY REALLY WERE? THE F.B.I.?
I DUNNO, BUT I WISH I'D BEEN MORE COOL ABOUT RAYDEEN


" AND NOW, MORE THAN EVER, I WISH I KNEW THE SECRET OF CERBERUS "
STILL NO SIGN OF THE ENTITY CARSON CALLED CERBERUS, CHARN?
NO, IT HAS DISAPPEARED FROM THE SCANNERS COMPLETELY

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I SEE. AND WHAT ABOUT DANGARD ACE'S PROGRESS WITH THIS NEW MENACE, CHARN?
WELL, NOT BAD... BUT NOT GOOD.
AT THE MOMENT, HE'S ATTEMPTING TO SAVE A SCHOOL BUS FILLED WITH CHILDREN.
THE CHILDREN ARE ESCAPING FROM THE BUS--GOT TO KEEP THE STAR-SPAWNED CREATURE AWAY FROM THEM--GIVE THEM TIME TO REACH SAFETY
WHICH CALLS FOR GRAPPLING WITH THE THING!
CAUGHT FROM BEHIND, THE GROTESQUE STAR-CHILD RESPONDS UNEXPECTEDLY, STRIKING NOT AT DANGARD ACE--
--BUT AT A DISTANT BUILDING.
FROOM
THE STRUCTURE BEGINS TO TOPPLE, AND DANGARD RELEASES THE CREATURE--
--AS IF LONGO SAVAGE INSTINCTIVELY REACTS TO THE GREATER DANGER.
THERE ARE PEOPLE IN THAT BUILDING--!

GOT TO HOLD IT UP-- WHICH MEANS I'M HELPLESS NOW, AND IF THE CREATURE ATTACKS ME...
NO--WAIT! WHAT'S HAPPENING TO IT--?!
IT'S STARTING TO GLOW...!
"AND NOW IT...IT'S CHANGING!
"IT'S GOING INTO A STATE OF METAMORPHOSIS!
"IT'S BEEN IN A LARVAL STAGE ALL ALONG-- JUST A BABY--
--AND NOW IT'S CHANGED TO IT'S MATURE FORM!
IT'S LEAVING-- HEADING BACK TOWARD THE SEA!

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I CAN'T PURSUE IT-- OR THE BUILDING WILL CRUSH EVERYONE IN THE STREET!
BUT WHY DID IT FLEE WHEN IT REACHED ITS FINAL, STRONGER STAGE? DANGARD ACE CERTAINLY DIDN'T HURT IT MUCH...
IT'S ALMOST AS IF IT WERE MERELY TESTING ME...
"...FOR THE REAL BATTLE, YET TO COME."
TOKYO: HEARINGS CONTINUE APACE...
I REPEAT: I CAN REVEAL NO DETAILS OF MY PROLONGED DISAPPEARANCE.
VERY WELL, GENJI ODASHU.
THEN WE SHALL JUST HAVE TO TURN YOU OVER TO--!
BOOM
EARTHQUAKE!
NO...IT'S NOT COMING FROM THE GROUND...

IT'S COMING FROM ABOVE--!
THERE IS INSTANT-ANEOUS AND TOTAL PANDEMONIUM...
BOOM
...AND GENJI FINDS HERSELF ALONE AND UNHEEDED.
OH, NO--!
BUT SHE IS STUNNED BY HER FIRST GLIMPSE OUTSIDE THE COURT-ROOM.
HER PENDANT FLASHES, AND DR. TAMBURA APPEARS.
YOUR LIFE IS IN DANGER, GENJI ODASHU! YOUR FEL-LOW WARRIORS HAVE ALREADY BEEN ATTACKED, AND NOW YOU!
"PREPARE FOR THE IMMEDIATE TRANSPORT OF COMBATRA!"
YES, SIR! BUT YOU--YOU'D BETTER HURRY!
NEXT ISSUE
THE MYSTERY DEEPENS, IN--
FEAR TIMES FIVE!